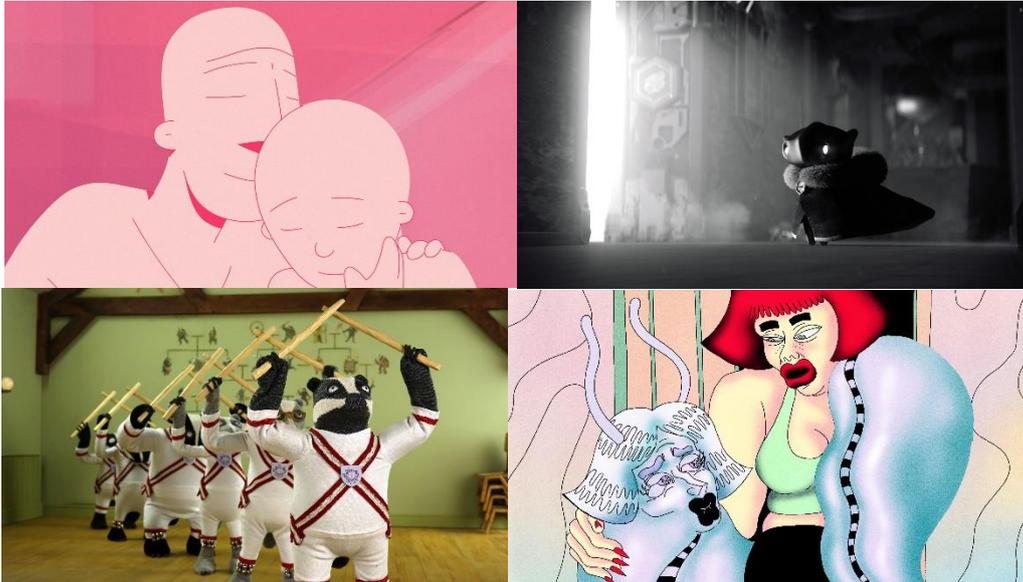


BFI Player releases Animation 2018 Shorts collection from new filmmakers in BFI/BBC Four talent programme



Top Row, Left to Right: *Hair* (Dir. Ed Smith), *Meteorlight* (Dir. Jonny Eveson)

Bottom Row, Left to Right: *Quarantine* (Dir. Astrid Goldsmith), *Slug Life* (Dir. Sophie Koko Gate)

- **Animation 2018 shorts available via BFI Player from 3 December**
<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/collection/animation-2018>
 - **Animated Britain now available via BFI Player**
<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/collection/animated-britain>
- **BBC Four dedicates an evening to animation with *Secrets of British Animation and Animation 2018***

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For immediate release: 21 November 2018, London

BFI Player is releasing **Animation 2018** - 13 new short films, from new and emerging animators commissioned through a **prestigious initiative by the BFI, BBC Four, and BBC Arts** to find the most exciting and original filmmaking talent from across the UK. Available to view **for free on BFI Player from 3 December**, each film takes a different approach, using styles and techniques ranging from hand-drawn images to live-action puppetry, stop motion, CG, 2D and 3D and covering a diverse range of genres from science-fiction to documentary, celebrating the medium of animation in all its breadth. Each animation received production grants between £2,000 and £10,000 towards the completion or creation of an original film.

In a unique collaboration with the BBC, marking the crowning achievement for the BFI's yearlong animation focus, **BBC Four** will dedicate a night to celebrating and showcasing the artistry of animation on **2 December**. At 9pm a new hour long documentary, **Secrets of British Animation** will take us on a journey through more than a century of British animation from the earliest pioneers to contemporary artists, offering rare insights into the creative and technical inventiveness of our leading animation talent. **Animation 2018** will follow at 10pm, the full list of short films and the themes they'll be broadcast in can be found below. Three time Bafta nominated director and animator **Osbert Parker** will introduce animations on BBC Four.

Many of the films featured in **Secrets of British Animation** documentary can be seen in full via **Animated Britain**, a recently digitised collection of **over 300 films available online for free via BFI Player**. Surveying a stunningly rich century-long history of British animation with films taken from the **BFI National Archive** and **Regional and National Film Archive Partners** across the UK, this landmark collection casts the evolution of British animation in a new light, frame by painstaking frame, highlighting the extraordinary creative variety in domestic production, from the earliest pioneers including Dudley Buxton's rare 15 frames of animation in **John Bull's Sketch Book** (1915) to some of the best known, award-winning names in commercial and independent animation including works by **Halas & Batchelor, Bob Godfrey, George Dunning, Cosgrove Hall** and **Larkins Studio**.

FULL ANIMATION 2018 PLAYLIST

ANIMALS

The Penguin Who Couldn't Swim – Tom Rourke

The Penguin Who Couldn't Swim is an animation about a disabled penguin who lives on a rocky island in the southern seas where she feels isolated from the rest of her colony. She is inventive, resourceful and tough but frustrated about what she cannot do. This is an animation about disability, made by a disabled animator.

Outside the Box – Katherine Hearst and Maria Pullicino

Tody is a lonely bird slaving his life away in a packaging factory. He dreams of a better life in the sunshine with someone there who actually cares if he's tired or overworked. When a box arrives at his station, destined for sunnier lands, Tody decides to make a break for it in order to find his paradise. The factory, however, has other plans.

Quarantine – Astrid Goldsmith

In an English coastal border town, a small band of badgers live in the shadow of an animal quarantine facility. As they struggle to keep their folk traditions alive, they try to ignore the strange sounds coming from the compound. But when tragedy strikes, they are forced to seek help from the unlikeliest place. A post-Brexit dance fantasy, Quarantine is an exploration of the fears that drive anti-immigrant rhetoric, viewed through the lens of British folk tradition.

OTHER WORLDS

Childhood Memories – Mary Martins

Combining 16mm colour footage of Lagos, Nigeria from the 70s with stop motion and 2D hand drawn animation, this multi-layered animation explores autobiographical memory and the cultural elements of our earliest childhood memory. Often episodic, this recollection of personally experienced past events often emerge from as early as three years old. After the age of five, these memories become elusive. A journey back to where it all began can be both beautiful and enlightening.

Meteorlight – Jonny Eveson

Meteorlight is a black and white 3D animated film set in a strange world plagued with darkness. The story follows Spudling, a sheltered character whose parent runs the factory manufacturing light for the city's inhabitants. When finally granted permission to follow their parent into work for one day, Spudling discovers the secret of what is really powering their world...

Uki – Ieuan Lewis and George Warren

A short stop frame animation following a lonely Inuit who struggles to survive after an oil tanker leaks oil off the coast of Alaska, killing all the wildlife in the area. It's a dark comedy about companionship, loneliness and pollution.

OBSESSION

Frank's Joke – Edward Bulmer

Frank told a bad joke at his new place of work. Nobody laughed. Now at 3am in the morning he is unable to sleep as he obsesses and ruminates over this social faux-pas, leading him to ponder on the nature of

memory itself. This comedic look at how our brains can keep us awake at night uses a mixed media approach of live-action puppetry and expressive hand drawn animation to convey the physical world and Frank's mental space respectively.

The Three Crow Boys – Tom Adriani

This animation takes place in a ravaged London street in the aftermath of war. Between mounds of rubble and bomb craters stands the house of a lonely old blind man. Late one night he receives three unexpected visitors. The Three Crow Boys is an original fairy tale, exploring the nature of monsters and madness. Not for the faint hearted, this story follows in the dark footsteps of the Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault and Angela Carter.

//_sleeper – Jordan Buckner

//_sleeper is a short animation set in a dying, industrial town both familiar and unfamiliar. This is neither future nor past, but rather somewhere lost. Somewhere other. The film uses a mix of 2D and CG animation to explore what happens to a lonely figure when a mysterious anomaly appears on the fringes of the landscape. It aims to capture the strange sense of ennui, loss and anxiety that feels appropriate for our times.

LOVE

Ladder to You – Victoria Watson and Chris Watson

Inspired by the loneliness experienced by older people in our society, Ladder to You is an insight into the life of Eric, an old man dealing with the loss of his wife. We follow Eric's day-to-day life and become immersed in the solitude he is trying to overcome. Through his feelings and memories of better times we get to see what it's like for the thousands of old people who live every day without any human contact. Ending with a message that love can beat despair, Ladder to You can also hopefully inspire people to give a little more time to the older folk who live amongst us.

Hair – Ed Smith

Archie and Mary Harrison obsessively shave themselves. Archie hates hair, and Mary loves Archie. In an attempt to please the love of her life, Mary suppresses her secret desire for hair. However, soon this desire starts to surface and their relationship becomes toxic.

O, Hunter Heart – Carla MacKinnon and Hannah Peel

Inspired by the poetry of Edwin Morgan, where natural and domestic worlds collide and the hidden animal instincts of humans rise to the surface, this poetic visual narrative features voices from interviews recorded around the UK, woven into an evocative soundtrack. Stop motion puppets and live action footage combine to tell a dark love story.

Slug Life – Sophie Koko Gate

We watch one young woman's unconventional attempt to take control of her own love life by growing the perfect partner – a beautiful giant slug. Both freaks of nature, it's a seemingly perfect match; until the slug is introduced to the outside world.

Development and delivery of the animations has been managed by independent production company **Wingspan Productions** which produced the successful BFI/BBC collaboration **Listen to Britain** in 2017.

Animated Britain is presented as part of **Unlocking Film Heritage** with thanks to **National Lottery funding** and the support of the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**. International audiences can also explore a selection of these films via a playlist on the BFI's YouTube channel.

- END -

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ABOUT THE BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

ABOUT BBC ARTS

The BBC is the biggest creator of arts content and is Britain's creative partner – a stage for the nation to experience the very best arts; when they want, how they want.

- The nation's stage: access to arts and culture programming for all through the licence fee – we create and showcase more arts and culture than any other broadcaster
- An Innovator: constantly finding new ways to bring the best quality culture to audiences; working with the arts sector as partner and acting as a hot house for new talent
- Britain's creative partner: a bold force in the UK creative sector as creator and commissioner, also a platform for new talent
- An investor in quality: we only present the highest quality arts and culture programming, crafted by skilled production teams and shared with all audiences
- Bringing the nation together: like no other we create and amplify moments in arts and culture, cutting through with a broad audience

ABOUT BFI PLAYER

BFI Player is a ground-breaking video on demand service which offers a uniquely diverse range of films, from the latest releases to the rarest silent cinema classics, giving UK audiences a rich and rewarding digital film experience. The Britain on Film collections are accessible through the BFI Player. <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

ABOUT BRITAIN ON FILM AND UNLOCKING FILM HERITAGE

Britain on Film is one of the largest and most complex archival projects ever undertaken and is part of the BFI's Unlocking Film Heritage programme (2013-18). Unlocking film heritage for everyone in the UK to enjoy is a key strategic priority for the BFI, and Britain on Film is the public launch of a vast programme of work, which has been ongoing for over three years. Bringing together a partnership with Regional and National Film Archives and rights holder collections across the UK, this work has included a sophisticated programme of data capture, cataloguing, copying to archival standards, meticulous preservation of original materials, thorough searching of archives across the country, new state-of-the-art equipment and digital storage facilities and the transfer of films to the BFI's online video platform, BFI Player.

Unlocking Film Heritage and Britain on Film are thanks to £15 million funding from the National Lottery and the additional support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES

The English Regional Film Archives and other National Film Archives (listed below) hold significant collections of film and video material specifically relevant to their regions or hold dedicated collections such as Imperial War Museums, preserved in specialised storage facilities and made widely available for education, research, communities and the wider public.

UEA's East Anglian Film Archive

Imperial War Museums

London's Screen Archives

Media Archive for Central England at the University of Lincoln

North East Film Archive
North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University
Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive
National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive
Screen Archive South East
South West Film & Television Archive
National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales
Wessex Film and Sound Archive
Yorkshire Film Archive